

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/731,359

Examiner

Charles I. Boyer

Applicant(s)

PARRISH ET AL.

Art Unit

1751

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to applicants' amendment and response received Oct 15, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-27.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____



CHARLES BOYER
PRIMARY EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Laura Cruz on November 27, 2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

On page 1, line 6 of the specification, after "May 16, 2001" insert --now US 6,743,332--

Cancel claims 3, 4, 9, and 10 and enter new claims 3, 4, 9, and 10 as follows:

3. The method of Claim 1, wherein the source of magnesium ions and hydroxyl ions is added to the wood particulates prior to the refiner to thereby introduce said source of magnesium ions and hydroxyl ions to said refiner.
4. The method of Claim 1, wherein the source of magnesium ions and hydroxyl ions is added directly at the refiner to thereby introduce said source of magnesium ions and hydroxyl ions to said refiner.
9. The method of Claim 1, wherein the source of perhydroxyl ions is added to the wood particulates prior to the refiner to thereby introduce said source of perhydroxyl ions to said refiner.
10. The method of Claim 1, wherein the source of perhydroxyl ions is

Art Unit: 1751

added directly at the refiner to thereby introduce said source of perhydroxyl ions to said refiner.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Applicants have claimed a method of bleaching pulp, comprising:

- (a) introducing a source of magnesium ions and hydroxyl ions to a refiner;
- (b) introducing a source of perhydroxyl ions to ((a)) said refiner; and
- (c) refining wood particulates into pulp in said refiner.

The prior art teaches processes for bleaching wood pulps using hydrogen peroxide/magnesium oxide slurries (see previous office action). However, the examiner accepts applicants' argument that the prior art does not teach the introduction of these components as specifically defined in the present specification as follows: "A refiner is an apparatus that mechanically separates the wood into its constituent fibers resulting in liberation of the single fiber cellulosic pulp." It appears that the bleaching of the pulp in the prior art is carried out in a "post-refiner" step. Accordingly, the present claims are allowable.

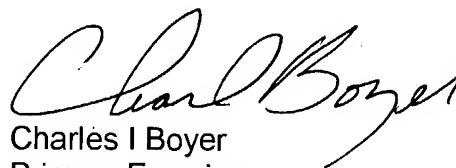
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Art Unit: 1751

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Charles I. Boyer whose telephone number is 571 272 1311. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:30 to 6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Yogendra Gupta can be reached on 571 272 1316. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Charles I Boyer
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1751